P-104 Earthquake Intensity Reporting

P-104.1 PURPOSE & SCOPE
To establish a standard for reporting, gathering and disseminating the intensity of seismic activity allowing a rapid geographic assessment of damage.

This policy pertains to notification and dissemination of information known to Public Safety Communications regarding a local seismic event. Once notification has occurred, strategies used to manage these events are the discretion of the local agency and/or Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator, including when to stand down.

P-104.2 POLICY
It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that PSC and operational Battalion Chiefs on duty during a seismic event will follow the procedures outlined in this policy for reporting earthquake events and intensity.

P-104.3 REFERENCES
N/A

P-104.4 PROCEDURES

1. Notification criteria
   a. PSC shall initiate the Earthquake Intensity Reporting process when:
      i. PSC experiences significant shaking due to presumed earthquake activity.
      ii. A Chief Officer notifies PSC that his/her location has experienced an earthquake.
      iii. PSC receives a report of a magnitude 4.0 or greater seismic event in the San Francisco Bay Area.

2. Incident entry and broadcast
   a. Once notified of a seismic event, PSC shall:
      i. Create a single CAD entry.
ii. Ring down all stations and broadcast pertinent details including preliminary earthquake magnitude, location, etc. and request an intensity rating from all Battalion Chiefs.

3. Information collection and dissemination
   a. Battalion Chiefs shall report damage to structures using the Earthquake Intensity Rating Level Scale for their immediate location to PSC within 5 minutes via radio (or telephone if radio communications is unavailable) to their Zone Dispatcher.

   Level 0       Nothing felt
   Level 1       Earthquake felt, no damage
   Level 2       Items thrown from shelves, windows broken
   Level 3       Block walls down
   Level 4       Structures shifted off foundations
   Level 5       Structural collapse

   b. PSC Dispatchers shall append the CAD incident with the Earthquake Intensity Rating as reported by each Battalion Chief.

   c. PSC will, upon receiving an Earthquake Intensity Report from all Battalions but no longer than 30 minutes, page the results to all logged on Fire personnel and equipment.